

The Seduction of Corruption Deut. 32.

Part 2: The Methods of Temptation James 1:12-16

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC Sunday, Aug 6th

Eph. 6:10-11 challenge us to *“be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God, That ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”* Verse 12 reminds us that we’re really battling *“principalities, powers, rulers of the darkness of this world...”*

2 Cor 2:11 warn us that if we’re ignorant of Satan’s “devices”, he’ll gain an advantage. His Motive is Pride and rebellion (Is 14:14), His means is Deception and Temptation (Ro. 6:16); and the Method he uses to accomplish this is Infection and Corruption. (1 Jn 2:15,16; 5:19)

1 Cor 10:11-20 reminds us that God recorded Israel’s history for our benefit and example.

Moses’ final challenge to Israel is in Deuteronomy 32 in which God reveals:

1. What God is. (His Nature and Character) Vs 3,4

“I will publish the name of the LORD, ascribe greatness unto our God.”

A. Stable, powerful. Vs 4 *“He is the Rock”* (šûr: refuge, strength) *Pr 18:10; Mt 16:18; Heb 6:19*

B. Perfect *“his work is perfect:”* (Tamim: without fault, entire) This is how God wants us:

1) To love. Dt. 6:5 *“Love the Lord thy God with all thine heart”* (See also Mt 22:37)

2) To live. Mt 5:48 *“be thou therefore perfect, even as your Father in heaven is perfect”* (teleios: complete)

C. Just: *“for all his ways are judgment: (Mishpāt’: Justice, right) a God of truth and without iniquity, just (šaddîq’: lawful, clear) and right is he.”* (yāshār’: straight, righteous)

“You cannot always trace God’s hand; But you can always trust His heart!” (Job 13:15; 23:10)

2. What God did (and does) Dt 32:6-14

Vs 6 *“Is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?”*

vs 10 *“He found him (Israel) in a desert land, ...; he led him about, he instructed him, he kept him as the apple of his eye.”*

11,12 *“as an eagle... the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him.”*

Vs 13 *“He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields”*

3. What God’s people did (and do) 5-6 *“they have Corrupted (shāḥat’: ruined) themselves, their spot (mûm: birthmark) is not the spot of his children: they are a perverse (‘iqqēsh: distorted) and crooked (pātal’: to twine, twist, torture) generation. 6 Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people? Is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?”*

A. Who or what was behind this corruption?

To answer this question Moses gave them an important History lesson. Dt. 32:7-28

1) Ancient History Deut 32:7 *“Remember the days of old, consider the years of many generations:*

2) Modern (recent) *“ask thy father, and he will shew thee; thy elders, and they will tell thee.”*

This corruption “cycle” is both ancient and continuous!

B. Infidelity is a biproduct of Forgetfulness! Vs 7 *“Remember the days of old.”*

1) If we fail to learn the lessons of History (1 Cor 10:11) *History will repeat itself!* (1 Cor. 10:12)

Vs 7-8 *“remember the days of old ... when the most High divided to the nations their inheritance,”*

This happened at the tower of Babel in Gen. 11.

9 *“For the LORD'S portion is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance.”* (Naḥalâ: possession)

If Israel was “God’s inheritance”, then whose inheritance (possession, reflection) were the other nations? To understand this, we must go Back to Babylon.

4. Back to Ancient Babylon Gen. 10,11

A. Founded by Nimrod. Genesis 10:8-10 *“Nimrod: (semitic: The Rebel)*

(he began to be a mighty one (gibbor: tyrant) in the earth.) And the beginning of his kingdom was Babel, and Erech, and Akkad, and Calneh, in the land of Shinar.”

B. It was founded/built to defy God. Gen 11:4

1) Replenishing earth was God’s command. Gen. 9:1

2) God promised not to flood the earth again (9:11,12), *But they didn’t believe/trust him!*

C. It Became a center of polytheism, cultic worship.

1) The “gods” (fallen angels) found inroads into the descendants of Noah. (*Gen. 9; Lev 18:8; 20:11*)

2) Nimrod and Semiramis claimed to be demigods and created a polytheistic system focused on the stars. (Hislop)

3) Eusebius records that Nimrod’s wife Semiramis gives birth (after Nimrod’s death) to a son, claiming an “immaculate conception” by Nimrod as the sun god and a “reincarnation” of Nimrod in this child.

(a) She called him Tammuz and named herself *“the mother of god and the queen of heaven.”*

(b) Semiramis was the original goddess of false religion later known as Ishtar (Babylon), Asherah (Canaan); Isis (Egypt); Astarte, Artemis or Diana (Greece/Rome)

4) At the division at Babylon, the people continued these cultic practices, with them.

D. This implies that the people/nations (that rejected God) became the inheritance of the demons who worked (with and through Nimrod) to oppose God at Babylon.

1) Notice how God describes the final Empire. (Rev. 17:5; 18:2) *“Habitation of devils”*

2) Israel was seduced by these false gods to commit spiritual adultery. Dt. 32:15-17

Conclusion: 1 Cor 10:11,12

God repeatedly warns us that these same “gods” are seeking to seduce us. *2 Tim. 2:1-4;*

2 Tim. 4:10; 1 Jn 2:15,16; 5:18; James 4:4 How does Spiritual Adultery develop? Dt. 32:15-

1) Begins with ingratitude. Vs 15 *“Jeshurun waxed fat and kicked”*

2) We begin to drift from God. 15b *“then he forsook God which made him”*

a) Grow “bitter” at his “rules”. *“and lightly esteemed (nābēl: despised) the Rock of his salvation.”*

b) This cultivates the seeds of “infidelity”. (Lack of trust and faithfulness)

3) We eventually drift toward false gods/idols v16 *“provoked him to jealousy with strange gods,”*

4) We (and others) pay a horrible price. Vs 17 *“they sacrificed unto devils,”* (See Dt 8:11-20)

Application: How do we avoid spiritual adultery?

James 4:6-8 *“But he giveth more grace. Wherefore he saith,*

God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble.

Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you.

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; (our actions)

and purify your hearts, ye double minded.” (our attitudes)

See 1 Jn 1:5-10